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The Baptist Observer Magazine

HIGHLIGHTING THE MINISTRIES
OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
IN INDIANA & KENTUCKY

www.abc-indiana.org

BECKY SEPTOSKI & JEFF TRYON, EDITORS - VOL 19 NO. 2 - APRIL/MAY/JUNE

Indiana and Nagaland Baptists Join to Run for Glory

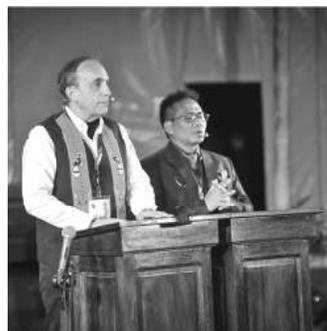
By: Rev. Dr. Bruce Cochran

In the spring of 2018, Daisok Panmei, pastor of the Miami BC in Logansport, IN communicated to me the Ronmei Naga Baptist Association (RNBA) was inviting me to be the main speaker at their 7th Youth Conference in January 2019. Daisok was born and raised in the Ronmei area of Nagaland. The Naga Baptists are grateful for the faithful American Baptist mission work that brought the gospel to their region, and one of the main motives for this invitation was to reconnect with their American Baptist heritage.

I was shocked, but pleased, to be offered this opportunity, especially after hearing the conference is normally attended by over 15,000 youth, young adults and their families. The planning committee indicated the theme for the event was "Run for Glory." The theme was supported by the Apostle Paul's direction given in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.

While in India, I had the opportunity not only to preach at the RNBA conference, but also to the Ronmei congregation in Delhi. It became apparent these dear believers indeed were eager to meet someone from their "spiritual homeland." I was continually received with enthusiasm and warm hospitality. Throughout my stay in India, however, I encountered a stark contrast between the economic and social conditions of India and the U.S. Traffic patterns are chaotic, but everyone

understands the need to interact and move along with the flow. Honking is not a cause to be offended, but in fact, welcomed as it gives warning to the presence of passing traffic. The economic conditions are especially impoverished in the rural areas in the Nagaland/Manipur area. The roads are unkept, and residences are barren and rough. As expected, however, the people are kind and warm. People seem to be less agitated at petty things, and less anxious to arrive.



Bruce Cochran pictured with Nehemiah Penmai on last night of conference

Spiritually, the highpoint of the trip occurred on the last night of the conference. After I concluded the sermon, Nehemiah Penmai, one of the conference leaders, met me at the pulpit. He expressed his appreciation for my messages and my presence. He also noted that even though they did not have much to give me, they could give



me their prayers, and that they would like to pray for me right then. At that point, he, and 15,000 others audibly prayed for me in the Ronmei dialect. It was an awesome and humbling moment. I was speechless. Tears swell up in me even now. I commented that those five minutes made the entire trip worthwhile.

Experiences such as this expand the mind and heart. We are reminded that the work of the Kingdom is larger than we normally envision. The gospel changed a culture of those who were formerly headhunters to those who love and welcome the stranger. Yet, the gospel is adaptable enough to be received by any culture. I was privileged to step into the stream of that Kingdom movement for a few days, and yet, I was at home with people who, though from another culture and who spoke a different language, were one in mind and spirit with me.

I am grateful for all the assistance given me and want to express my

appreciation for the Ronmei Naga Baptists for their hospitality. I am also grateful for the advice and counsel provided by International Ministries. I am especially appreciative of the confidence and support of Soozie Ford, and for the Region Board who financially supported my journey.

History Comes Full Circle at Miami BC

When Rev. Dr. Bruce Cochran, ABC-IN/KY Region Minister brought the main message to 15,000 attendees at the 7th Ronmei Naga Baptist Youth Conference in Nagaland, India in January, he was completing a surprising circuit between Indiana and India that goes back over 140 years.

Cochran's trip to the conference was facilitated by Rev. Dr. Daisok Panmei, pastor of the Miami BC in Logansport, Indiana, who was born and raised in the Ronmei area of Nagaland.

Panmei graduated from Northern Baptist Seminary in 2000 and received his doctorate from Palmer Seminary in 2009. "My parents and all my family are in Nagaland, my siblings, everyone

Article continued on page 3



Rev. Soozie Whitten Ford
Executive Minister
sooziford@abc-indiana.org

As I write on National Pi Day (3.14), I am observing the completion of seven years of serving as your executive minister. In many ways, I feel like I am just now getting started and, as is often the case, there are other times when it feels as though I have always been here. I was excited to begin with a staff meeting in March 2012 and as our staff met this week, I confess that my level of excitement continues to grow.

The Indiana Baptist Convention (known publicly as American Baptist Churches of Indiana & Kentucky) has a rich heritage that began in the wilderness areas along the Ohio River in the closing years of the 18th century. Owens Creek church, also known as 14-Mile Church, near the falls of the Ohio River, was the first Protestant church in what is now Indiana. The small congregation later relocated near current day Sellersburg in Clark County, and became known as the Silver Creek Baptist Church. The Silver Creek building still stands and the cemetery contains the graves of those early Baptist pioneers, many of whom originally came from Great Bethel Baptist Church in Uniontown (Fayette County) PA, literally the church my husband was born into, raised in, and ordained by in 1982. (That's a story for another day.) Other churches were seeded and planted from Silver Creek as those early Baptist pioneers sought to instill a moral and spiritual compass even as they braved the harsh conditions.

As the area became a state in 1816 and grew, Baptists continued to plant churches. They later formed associations, groups of churches located in a geographic area, for the purpose of the support of their common ministry and mission. In the 1830s, leaders of various associations discussed their desire to form a wider ministry organization that would unite these associations and their churches. On April 26th, 1833, the Indiana Baptist Convention was formed near Brandywine Creek in Shelby County.



IBC marker visible from I-74

Next month we will observe 186 years of continuous ministry and mission together.

The length of this article would never provide enough space to highlight the ministry accomplishments of what we now call ABC of Indiana/Kentucky, but they are numerous, and they are truly amazing. I would, however, like to highlight just a few current areas of interest and ministry that continue the great example of the spiritual pioneers who came before us.

Churches continue to be planted, especially among those who are new to Indiana and the U.S.

- ◆ The Burmese congregations that began within the last 15 years or so, continue to grow and develop their ministries. We have assisted in connecting our Chin churches with Northern Seminary, as they explore the possibility of beginning a Chin language seminary in central Indiana.

- ◆ Our Latino Ministry Strategist, Rev. Jaime Flores, has helped us start three new churches in the last four years to respond, in part, to the growing population among us. Iglesia Bautista



Training for all Indiana Latino Church Leaders

Logos is meeting in Memorial Baptist (Columbus) and will soon have its official launch celebration. Iglesia Bautista Restauracion is meeting in The Journey Church (Westfield) and began its ministry about a year ago. Our newest church, Iglesia Bautista Tabernaculo is meeting in The Baptist Temple (Logansport), beginning its ministry in January.

- ◆ What new people groups, living in Indiana and Kentucky, are living near you? How might your church consider serving with them, including perhaps providing a place for worship?

We want to grow into the Teaching Church Initiative (TCI), developed with Northern Seminary, that grew out of our IN/KY board discussions related to our priority of equipping leaders and our new pathway of emerging leaders. Currently, three pastors are in their second semester of course work via NorthernLive!, the cost of which is being funded through grant monies and the generosity of their churches. TCI is highly flexible and adaptable to:

- ◆ any church that has someone already in their midst who desires seminary training;
- ◆ who has a position opening, including that of pastor, which could be filled by someone interested in the TCI model; and/or
- ◆ who has a desire to provide an opportunity for someone, and could potentially provide a new or existing position in which they could serve while engaging in seminary study.

What are the possibilities that your church could be a Teaching Church? The IN/KY staff and other leaders are prepared to visit with you to explore the options.

Camping continues to be a huge part of our overall ministry emphasis, especially as children and youth look

towards a few months away from school in the summer. Indian Creek (near Bedford) and Camp Tippy (near North Webster), along with Southeastern Baptist Camp (near Westport), all provide Christ-centered programming and recreation in beautiful outdoor settings for a variety of ages.

- ◆ How might your church provide a camping experience for nearby kids?

- ◆ How would you be willing to offer your time and skills at one of our camps, perhaps as a cabin leader or camp pastor? If neither of those positions are up your alley, our camping programs always need volunteers – for mowing and grounds care; to assist with crafts, music, and cooking; to serve as “extra” adults or camp grandparents during the week. If you have the time and energy, it is likely that our camp managers can find a way to use you.

The Ministerial Excellence Fund (MEF) is observing 10 years of serving Indiana pastors in 2019. Initially funded by a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., MEF continues to provide assistance to Professional Church Leaders (PCLs) in the midst of financial stress that prevents them from focusing on the greater tasks of Kingdom ministry. MEF provides a way to remove the barriers of financial stress, thus clearing the path for pastors to focus on, develop, and implement excellence in their ministry with local churches. These grants are now funded through donations by individuals and churches to the MEF Sustaining Fund, and are administered by a team of leaders from ABC IN/KY and Greater Indianapolis. Applications and information are available on both region websites.

**Article continued
on page 3**

article continued from page 2

The Church Leadership Institute (CLI) provides excellent training opportunities for those who wish to deepen their own discipleship journey or prepare for leadership in their church. Information about upcoming courses is available at www.abc-indiana.org.

◆ Who can your church encourage to participate in a growing experience of discipleship?

We look forward to hosting our ABC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Lee Spitzer, in June. Dr. Spitzer will be meeting with interested persons primarily in northern and central Indiana, June 2-4. Please watch our website, Observations, and Facebook page for the specific schedule. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with Dr. Spitzer in a very informal setting, and I personally hope you will consider attending.

It has long been my hope to make use of communications technology in our ministry here. It is becoming a reality through the funding from a Palmer Grant (via the AB Foundation), our new office location, and the technical gifts of a long-time colleague and friend. I had the privilege of serving with Dr. Marshall Peters in my previous position before coming to Indiana/Kentucky. He retired last summer from serving as the

executive minister in Mid-ABC (Iowa and Minnesota), and he and June relocated to Indianapolis to be closer to family. When I explained my vision to him, Marshall graciously agreed to help us find and install the necessary equipment. Our conference room is now equipped for video conferencing, including meetings, and (soon, I hope) workshops and seminars.

Please be in prayer for the search team currently seeking to fill the position of Region Minister, following the retirement of Phyllis Goodyear last December. The team is led by Darrell James (chair, Personnel Committee) and staffed by me, and includes Pastors Wade Allen (Muncie), Dan Cash (Columbus), Mark Spencer (Rochester), and Shelly Zook (Amo). At its November meeting, the IN/KY board approved a staffing plan to assign three region ministers to about 95 churches each in three geographic areas, roughly north, central, and south. Once a candidate is approved by the IN/KY board, the announcement will include information about the specific assignments for each staff member.

I am blessed beyond measure to be serving with you, pastors and churches, and alongside an amazingly gifted staff. Thank you for this privilege as we serve Together on God's Abundant Journey.

History Comes Full Circle, continued from page 1

except me," he said. "They wanted me to come back, but God didn't allow me to do that. Somehow God led me to pastor at Miami BC."

The Ronmei are one of around 30 sub-tribes of the Naga that are scattered over three or four different districts (or counties) in northeast India. There are only three majority Christian districts in India; Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland.

The total population of Ronmei is approximately 400,000, 300,000 of whom are in Manipur, where the conference was held. Rev. Panmei said most Ronmei, like most Nagas, are Baptists, as a result of the early missionary work of Rev. Dr. Edwin W. Clark (E.W. Clark), a 19th-century missionary sent to Nagaland by what was in those days known as ABM (American Baptist Missions).

In 1872, Dr. Clark and his wife opened their first mission station in the Naga hills near Assam. They spent 1872-1901 and 1904-1911 in Nagaland, ministering to the local people and establishing the Baptist faith. There are now 190 Baptist churches under the

RNDA, (Ronmei Naga Baptist Association), and 90 percent of Nagas, and also the Ronmei, are Baptists.

After Rev. Panmei had been at Miami BC about three months, he decided to dig in to their history in an attempt to better understand and communicate with his congregation. It turns out the Boone County church has a very old and deep connection to Nagaland. He was shocked and "stunned" to learn that Dr. Clark had pastored the same church before his mission to India, something neither he nor the church had known.

Rev. Panmei discovered that Dr. Clark had been a minister at the Baptist Temple in Logansport, and that the Miami BC was a branch church established in 1842. "When Dr. Clark was there, he pastored all the branches, so technically, he was the pastor of Miami Baptist Church too," Panmei said.

"So, after 140-some years, I came to continue his mission here," he said. "It's amazing. That was a shocking day, but it confirmed to me 100 percent that it is God's will that I'm here."

New Manager of Mission & Finance



We invite you to extend a warm welcome to John Dunlap, our new Manager of Mission and Finance, who joined our office staff team in late January. John has accounting experience working with both larger corporations and smaller companies, and has owned and operated several businesses through the years. His desire is to use his God-given skills to assist a faith-based ministry organization and he is thrilled to become part of ABC Indiana/Kentucky. John, his wife and sons live in Franklin and are members of Christian Chapel Church in Morgantown. You may contact John via email: johnhdunlap@abc-indiana.org or phone: ext. 239.

Lianne Wright has served as our Manager of Mission and Finance since 2016. She, and her husband Kip, are retiring and moving back to West Des Moines, Iowa, to be near family as they give attention to aging parents. Lianne has supported IN/KY's ministry by working closely with the region's Finance Committee; overseeing the audit process, the Edifice Loan program; accounting functions and investments; and has been an integral and joyful part of our staff team. She also currently serves as a board member of The American Baptist Foundation.

We are grateful for Lianne's ministry among us these last several years and we wish them the very best as they make the transition to this chapter in their lives.



Transition Ministry Training June 10-12, 2019 Hosted by: Columbus FBC

This training is ideal for those who are currently serving as interim pastoral leaders, or who might desire to serve at some point in the future. Dr. Larry Swain (ABC Ohio, retired executive minister) will serve as the trainer, in partnership with American Baptist Transitional Ministries.

There are two ways to register for this event:

- 1. A brochure with details and registration form can be downloaded from the region website. (link found on front page)**
www.abc-indiana.org
- 2. Register and pay online. Simply go to the website and click on the link found on the front page**

American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES

By: Judy Cutler, ABW Treasurer

God has been good to American Baptist Women of Indiana in 2018. The goal to raise \$25,000 for Paul Rollet and the building project of the Center for Missions and Urban Spirituality in Manila, Philippines was exceeded. We sent International Ministries a check for \$27,909.61 and are now beginning to raise money for the 2019 project, the Indiana Baptist Camps: Tippecanoe, Indian Creek and Southeastern.

Tax Reform Provision Targets Churches and Nonprofits

[This article was originally written by Dr. Louis P. Barbarin, chief executive officer for MMBB, and appeared in the Fall 2018 issue of MMBB's newsletter, Tomorrow. With Dr. Barbarin's permission, it has been edited and reprinted here.]

This article focuses on a little-known provision of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1) of 2017 that may have a large impact on your church or faith-based organization. The provision requires that churches, hospitals, colleges and other tax-exempt organizations begin paying a 21 percent tax on some types of fringe benefits they give employees such as parking, transportation and other benefits.

Compensation and benefits provided by employers to employees are taxable. There are a few exceptions to this general rule, including fringe benefits outlined in section 132 of the Internal Revenue Code. One of the taxable fringe benefits is the "qualified transportation fringe" which includes any of the following:

1. Transportation in a commuter highway vehicle if such transportation is in connection with travel between the employee's residence and place of employment.
2. Any transit pass
3. Qualified parking (i.e. parking provided to an employee on or near the business premises of the employer or on or near a location from which the

We presented scholarships of \$500 each to 10 worthy students from our Indiana Baptist churches, along with supporting our state operations and several National Support projects. The ABW of Indiana is a group of generous women for whom we are very thankful.

As of this writing, ABW is planning the spring retreat. We will welcome Lori Hill, our new national ABW president, as a speaker. This event is always a blessing as we gather new information, work on committee business and get to know each other better.

If any American Baptist women who reads this are not active in your local church ABW, why not plan to attend or begin a group? You will be blessed!

employee commutes to work by transportation in a commuter highway vehicle or by carpool.

4. Any qualified bicycle commuting reimbursement.

Many churches and nonprofit organizations are not aware of the tax, which could cost some of them tens of thousands of dollars annually. It will be a financial burden, as well as an administrative one, since it will cause them to file Form 990-T, the Exempt Organization Business Tax Return. For those churches and nonprofits that are aware of the new requirement there is confusion as to how the tax should be calculated. For example, churches are asking how they are supposed to calculate the value of parking spaces for employees. And some are questioning if the garages provided as part of clergy residences are now taxable.

The Treasury is working on regulations spelling out the details of how the tax will work, even though the affected groups should already have been paying the quarterly tax which took effect January 1, 2018. In addition, legislation was introduced in June to rescind this particular tax provision. The Church Alliance (a coalition of the chief executive officers of 38 church benefits organizations), in which MMBB is a member, is advocating to have churches exempted from the tax and the filling requirement. MMBB will keep us updated on any developments with respect to the situation.

Equipping Leaders

Memorial BC, Columbus, Calls Kristi Jones as Senior Pastor



Memorial BC in Columbus, IN is pleased to announce the calling of their new Senior Pastor, Kristi Jones. She began her full-time duties in January, assuming the full-time role from Rev. David Brown, who was the interim

pastor for two and a half years.

Pastor Kristi grew up in Southeastern Indiana and was a member of Hopewell BC. She also spent 19 summers at Southeastern Indiana Baptist Youth Camp, mostly as a camper, but also as a staff member and counselor. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Indiana Wesleyan University and holds a Master of Divinity degree from Campbell University Divinity School. She recently married Christopher Jones. Having spent the past 12 years leading different Student Ministries in Indiana, Florida, and North Carolina, Pastor Kristi is happy to be back "home" and is looking forward to seeing how God leads her and Memorial BC in this new season.

Timothy Mohon Welcomed as Senior Pastor at Kimberlin Creek

On November 11, 2018, Kimberlin Creek BC called Rev. Timothy Mohon to serve as Senior Pastor.

The Mohons came from Ohio, where they pastored three different congregations. Pastor Tim is a past president of the American Baptist Churches of Ohio and was the Baptist History instructor for the Ohio Leadership Academy. A native of Tennessee, he is a graduate of Austin Peay State University and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

After graduating from seminary, Pastor Tim began his ministry in Indiana with the Gosport BC. During that pastorate, he also served as Dean of the Indiana Certified Lay Ministry Program.

In welcoming the Mohons, Kimberlin Creek BC also extends a heartfelt



"Thank You" and "Fond Farewell" to Rev. David and Candy Scaggs, who served faithfully as interim pastor. The Scaggs, though only with Kimberlin Creek for a short while, quickly became part of the church family.

The Kimberlin Creek BC family is excited to see where God will lead us during our new pastorate and welcomes Pastor Tim and his wife, Pam, with open and loving arms.

OBSERVER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINES

SUMMER ISSUE (July-August-September) - Fri., May 31
FALL ISSUE (October-November-December) - Fri., September 13
WINTER ISSUE (January-February-March 2020) - Wed., November 27

If you would like more information about churches or events described in this issue, contact Becky Septoski at beckyseptoski@abc-indiana.org or (317) 635 3552 X222.

Expanding Mission

Historic Link Between Coffee Creek Association and EMCC



This January, the Coffee Creek Baptist Association dedicated itself to filling the food pantry at Edna Martin Christian Center by collecting items and money. Nineteen churches in the Association reported that they collectively donated slightly more than \$9,500 worth of food and toiletries. In February, a small group went shopping with the money raised, and then, delivered the supplies to Edna Martin Christian Center (EMCC) in Indianapolis. The association has been actively participating in this ministry for almost 50 years.

It all started some 55 years ago, when Elisha Layman, a Sunday-school teacher from a small Baptist church in

Jennings County, filled the trunk of his sedan with canned goods and drove 80 miles north to the East Side Christian Center. He had heard of Mrs. Edna Martin and the important work she was doing among the poor in the Martindale-Brightwood

neighborhood of Indianapolis.

Layman arrived to find that the storied East Side Christian Center was merely three ramshackle houses on Arsenal Avenue, two of which had been cobbled together with an improvised hallway. Even so, the Center fed 50 to 60 hot meals to children every day and helped 5,000 people a month.

When Layman saw the tremendous faith of Mrs. Edna Martin, and saw how she somehow pulled off the impossible on a shoestring budget, it broke his heart, and he determined to do more. When he returned home, he rallied his congregation and they returned with more food the following February and have been doing so every year since!

A lot has changed in 55 years. In 1965, the East Side Christian Center got the new building they had needed so badly. In 1974, it was renamed the Edna Martin Christian Center upon the death of the founder. In 2012, EMCC moved to another new building, its current location on 25th Street in Indianapolis.

Jennings County has seen changes as well. Layman not only raised support at his church, he eventually got the support of all 19 churches in the Coffee Creek Baptist Association, a group that covers 350 square miles in five Southern Indiana counties.

After Layman died in 2012, his daughter Linda Napier picked up where he left off. Even though she now lives in Southern Kentucky, she still coordinates the collection and makes the annual trek. "I promised that I would not let his dream die," Napier said, "And so I took over in 2013, and the Coffee Creek Association brought in \$9,500 worth of supplies. It took two trailers and three full-size pickup trucks to deliver the supplies."

"I imagine that a lot of people, or even a lot of churches, might be



intimidated at the thought of donating \$9,500 worth of food and toiletries," said EMCC Director of Communications Dale Crabtree, "but Coffee Creek has two things in common with Edna Martin herself: they were both determined to do something and didn't mind starting small; the other thing is that neither were from this neighborhood. Mrs. Martin had to take two buses to get to here."

How can your church help? Simple. Napier says she finds out what supplies are needed, she sets a goal, and she starts praying. "We will start praying next week for next year, and anybody can do that!"

Latino Anglo Bridge (LAB) Widens Scope of Group

In a series of meetings over the past several months, ABCIN/KY leaders and pastors have begun developing a process for building a communications bridge between Latino and Anglo churches within the Region.

These meetings have featured Twyla Hernandez from Campbellsville University and Salvador Orellana from ABHMS, getting Anglo and Latino pastors together and discussing intercultural competence.

The LAB program will now begin to invite members of congregations to come with their pastors to further explore five general topics they are using as the framework for their

discussions; diversity in terms of the mission of the church, "culture" and how it works, intercultural communication skills, obstacles which impede intercultural relationships, and fostering integration rather than assimilation via hospitality, reconciliation and mission.

The long-term goal is to bring English-speaking and Spanish-speaking churches alongside one another to overcome prejudice and build cross-cultural relationships, which are consistent with and add energy to the call to live out a relevant Christian faith and witness.

The LAB team consisting of Rev. Dr. Bruce Cochran, Rev. Jaime Flores, Rev. Mark Sorrels and Rev.

Edwin Montanez have been leading the effort, which has a long-term goal of developing a process which can be adapted for other uses as well.

"One exciting aspect is intercultural competence cuts across all kinds of cultural barriers, not just Anglo and Latino, but Latino and African American or Anglo and African American; any kind of cultural divide," Cochran said.

"That's a long term goal, maybe a year or so down the road," said Cochran. "The immediate goal is to get people face to face. It's been remarkable to see the enthusiasm among those who are participating and the appreciation we've

developed for one another's culture and for the challenges that we all have in building bridges and becoming the kingdom that God calls all of us to be."

"When you get immersed in this, and then, you go to your Bible, you see that this is what God intended all along," he said.

"Paul talked about breaking down the barriers; that first initial barrier was between the Jews and the Gentiles, but that was not the end, it was just the beginning. It was God's intention for us, as Jesus prayed in the 'high priestly prayer' in John 15, that He wants us to be one. That's His intention again."

Empowering Churches

Columbus FBC Assists Love Chapel Food Bank

In January, Columbus FBC collected their annual FISH offering to purchase food for the local food pantry at Love Chapel. The \$3,346.46 collected this year was used for some very specific needs. In coordination with Aldi and Mission Team Leader, Liz Lipson, applesauce, peanut butter, Ramen noodles, and canned fruit was purchased. Liz contacted Aldi, and they got the food ready for collection. The Men of Faith group and a few others came to Aldi early on a very cold Saturday morning, loaded the food on to trucks and vans and transported it to



Love Chapel. With the help of some additional volunteers, they unloaded the food in very short order. The Love Chapel folks were very grateful for the donation. It was a great time for all of those who participated!

Creative Advent Season at Wolcott FBC

Brenda Rogers always finds unique ways to lead the congregation of Wolcott FBC, in observance of Advent and Lent. Brenda is the person who lines up volunteers to help present the devotionals each week of Advent and Lent.

The most recent observation of Advent was very unique in that Brenda incorporated 100 plus year old barn wood from her grandparents' farm in Tennessee. Brenda asked Mr. Arlie Black to help design and build her idea. Each week as the volunteers presented their devotion and lit their candle, they would place the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love boards on the tri-pod. It was a wonderful visual that added to the meaning of the Advent season.



**Samaria BC, Paragon, IN
to Celebrate 190th Birthday
10860 W Baseline Rd., 46166**

August 17, 2019 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

A program and pitch-in dinner will be held. Samaria is a member of the Friendship Association. Everyone is welcome to share in the celebration. Church history will be on display.

HOUSING ALLOWANCE DECISION

MMBB has recently informed us that Mr. Larry Hansen, legal consultant to the Church Alliance, reported that the Seventh Circuit issued its decision in *Gaylor v. Mnuchin* today and **upheld the constitutionality of the housing allowance under section 107(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.**

In a 3-0 decision, the panel found that section 107(2) was constitutional under both the traditional three-factor test set forth in *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 403 U.S. 602 (1971), as well as the "historical significance" test of *Town of Greece v. Galloway*, 572 U.S. 565 (2014).

If you have questions, you may direct them to your IN/KY staff member or by contacting MMBB at 1-800-986-6222.

MINISTER'S WIVES RETREAT

May 3-5, 2019

Indian Creek Baptist Camp

Subject: *Redeeming Love* - book discussion

Registration Fee: \$50.00

RSVP by April 20, 2019

A brochure and registration form can be found on the ABC-IN/KY website: www.abc-indiana.org on the front page under coming events.

ABCUSA MISSION SUMMIT - by the Sea! June 21-23, 2019 Virginia Beach, VA

Join us as the American Baptist Churches Biennial Mission Summit returns to the East Coast June 21-23, 2019, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Virginia Beach is easily accessible to many different American Baptist regions, and is a family-friendly destination with much to do in the area both before and after the Biennial Mission Summit! Sessions for all ages are available June 21-23, making it an easy family vacation option.

Registration forms and more information can be found on the ABCUSA website: www.abc-usa.org





CAMP NEWS

Indian Creek Baptist Camp Day of Service and Prayer

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Opening prayer - 9:00 am

Lunch at 1:00 pm

RSVP today at

campindiancreek.com/events

Camp Tippy

Chicken Noodle Dinner

Saturday, April 27 2019

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Fish Fry at Tippy!

Saturday, August 3, 2019

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Ladies Getaway Weekend

October 18 - 20, 2019

Ages 18 - Adult

Young at Heart Camp

October 25 - 27, 2019

Ages 55+

Go to the Camp Tippy website for more information on all events.

www.camptippy.org

REGION MINISTERIAL STAFF:

Rev. Soozie Whitten Ford, Executive Minister - sooziford@abc-indiana.org

Dan Chadwick, Region Minister - danchadwick@abc-indiana.org

Bruce Cochran, Region Minister - brucecochran@abc-indiana.org

Jim Walter, Interim Region Minister - jimwalter@abc-indiana.org

2019 Camp Schedules

For complete details and info regarding camp fees go to:

CAMP TIPPY: www.camptippy.org

INDIAN CREEK: campindiancreek.com

PLEASE NOTE: Online registration is now available

CAMP TIPPY

SESSION	DATE	GRADE
Explorer	June 9-13	1st - 2nd
Leadership	June 9-15	9th - 11th
1st Timers	June 14-15	K - 1st
Trailblazer	June 16-22	5th - 6th
DAY Camp (9am-4pm)	June 17-21	1st - 6th
Princess Girls	June 23-28	7th - 8th
Heroes Boys	June 23-28	7th - 8th
Senior High	June 30 - July 6	9th - '19 grads
Challenge	July 7-13	7th - 8th
Discovery	July 14-20	3rd - 4th

INDIAN CREEK

SESSION	DATE	GRADE
Special Persons	June 3-7	16 and older
Explorer	June 9-11	1st - 2nd
Discovery	June 12-15	3rd - 4th
Girls Camp	June 16-20	4th - 6th girls
1st Timers	June 21-22	K - 1st
Senior High	June 23-29	10th - '19 grads
Boys Camp	June 30 - July 4	4th - 6th boys
Focus	July 7-13	7th - 9th
Challenge	July 14-20	6th - 8th

If you would like more information about churches or events described in this issue, contact Becky Septoski at beckyseptoski@abc-indiana.org or (317) 635 3552 X222.

COMING EVENTS

APRIL

- 9 - CORMS
- 13 - CLI: Franklin
- 16 - Region Staff Mtg
- 27 - LAB (Latino/Anglo Bridge)
- 27 - CLI: Westport

MAY

- 4 - CLI: Franklin
- 11 - CLI: Westport
- 14 - Region Staff Mtg
- 18 - CLI: Franklin

JUNE

- 1 - CLI: Westport
- 8 - CLI: Franklin
- 10 - 12 - Transition Ministry Training
- 15 - CLI: Westport
- 15 - LAB-2
- 18 - Region Staff Meeting

